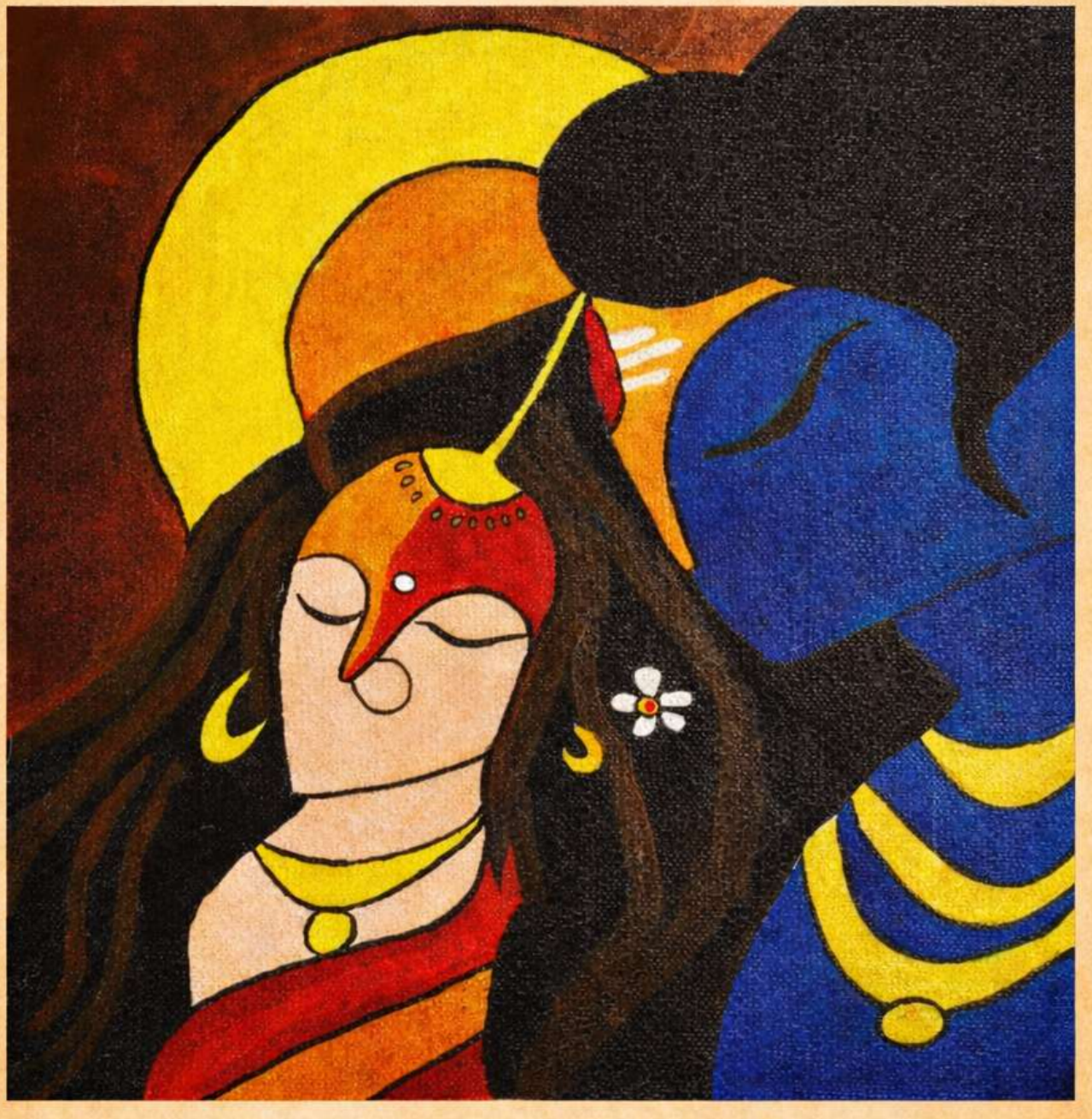
PILLARS

ALTERNATIVE EDITION



SOCIAL GRAIN

REALISM

While it is undoubtedly a good thing that "ism" words have gone out of fashion in philosophy, some "ism" words seem remarkably resistant to being banned. One such word is "realism".

More and more philosophers are talking about realism these days; but very little is said about what realism is. This paper will not answer that very large question; but I hope to contribute a portion of an answer.

Whatever else realists say, they typically say that they believe in a **Correspondence Theory of Truth**. When they argue for their position, realists typically argue against some version of **Idealism**—in our time, this would be **Positivism** or **Opertionalism**.

(This is not in itself surprising—all philosophers attempt to shift the burden of proof to their opponents. And if one's opponent has the burden of proof, to dispose of his arguments seems a sufficient defence of one's own position)

And the typical realist argument against **Idealism** is that it makes the success of science a miracle. Berkeley needed God just to account for the success of beliefs about tables and chairs (and trees in the Quad); but the appeal to God has gone out of fashion in philosophy, and, in any case, Berkeley's use of God is very **odd** from the point of view idealism is that **makes so** sheysee large question. Berkeley needed God just to account for the success of beliefs about tables and chairs (and trees in the Quad); but the appeal to God has gone out, of fashion in philosophy, and, in any case, **Berkeley's** use of God is very odd from the point of view of most theists.

And the modern positivist has leave it without **explanation** (the realist charges) that 'electron calculi' and "space-time calculi' and **'DNA calculi'** correctly predict observable phenomena if. in reality, there are no electrons, no curved space-time, and no DNA molecules.

If there are such **things**, then a natural explanation of the success of these theories is that they are partially true accounts of how they behave.

And a natural account of the way in which scientific theories succeed each other —say, the way in which **Einstein's Relativity succeeded Newton's Universal Gravitation**– is that a **partially correct**.

HISTORY

Realism, and the issues it raises, go all the way back. I will only pick up the story in the seventeenth century, the era that marks the rise of modern science. The such word is "realism".

Realism, and the issues it raises, go all the way back. I will only pick up the story in the seventeenth century, the era that marks the rise of modern science. The articulation of the method of hypotheses by the great thinkers of that era (Bacon, Descartes, Gaiileo, Huyghens, Leibniz, Newton, Pascal, etc.) posed questions over the reliability of the method as a source of truth, questions that came to a head in the following centuries side by side with the development of theoretical physics itself. Such questions were at issue in the stibsequent discussions of theories of combustion (phlogiston), of heat (caloric), fluid theories of electricity, theories of the ether and light, and finally in treatments of the chemical atom and the kinetic picture of matter.

From the beginning I would say, these discussions had **a dual character**. On the one hand they were concerned with questions of **evidence**, in particular with the epistemological question of the extent to which the explanatory and predictive success of a hypothesis (or theory) justified belief in the truth of the hypothesis. On the other hand they were equally concerned with the idealism is that it makes the success of science a miracle.

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On the other hand they were equally concerned with the **metaphysical issue** of the character of the objects studied by science; i.e., with the nature of heat, electricity, light and matter. **Husserl** (1970) points to Gaiileo as the culprit who began a dubious objectification of nature.

Dubious or not, Gaiileo's **methods** did raise the **metaphysical** question over the ideality of the objects of scientific thought, precisely the issue which (Ocused on space, time, and motion) pitted Newton against Leibniz. What was at stake (and, incidentally, well before Kant) was the question of the **mindindependence** (or objectivity) of the scientific objects.

Thus realism has always had a double aspect: epistemological-cum-metaphysical.

GLOBAL VIEW

Realism used to be a global position. It held out a vision for science as a whole, which it pictured as eareogzd in the task of searching for truth. Truth was understeod as some sort of external world correspondence, the sort needed to insure the mindindependence of the scientific objects. Realism also made promises. It committed science

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has re **gened** realime in its **realist vision.**

Thus realism seems to have **outlived its** usefulness. At any rate, these various factors have contributed to the current breakup of the doctrine, out of which I propose to concentrate on two related fragments. The first **is entity realism.**

CONCLUSION

When realism was grand, no support could be found for it vis-à-vis its instrumentalist and constructivist rivals. So realism went to causes and contexts, giving up general metaphysical pretensions, and resting as best it could only on its **epistemological leg.** But that hasn't helped. Despite the apparatus of causal explanations, aided by little principles of rationality and topic-specificity, we still find realism begging the question of the reach of evidence against its instrumentalist rival.

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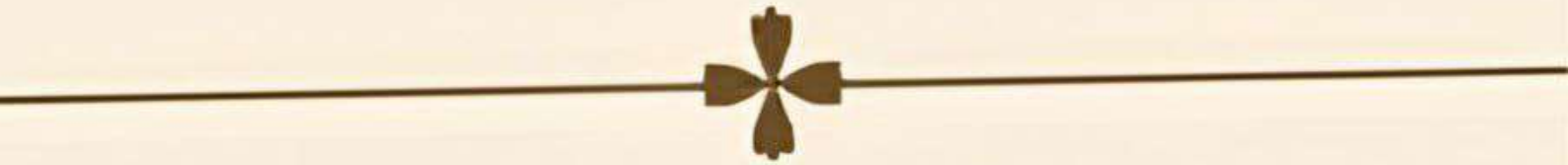


IRRELEVENT QUESTIONS & RANDOM ANSWERS

THE SOCIAL CLIMATE TODAY...

It's like our capital city's monsoon season.
We're all stuck in a pressure cooker.

There's so much tension, everyone's on edge and perspectives are pouring.

We're living in an era of echo chambers where everyone is yelling at each other from their own little corner of the internet.

Empathy & civic sense have taken a backseat and we're all just waiting for the next social media storm to hit.

THE PARENTING STRUGGLE...

Surviving. Seriously, it's a miracle.
Expected to be perfect in gentle parenting while juggling careers & keeping their Gen Alpha kids safe in an increasingly unsafe world.

Between online predators & peer pressure, it's like they're navigating a minefield.

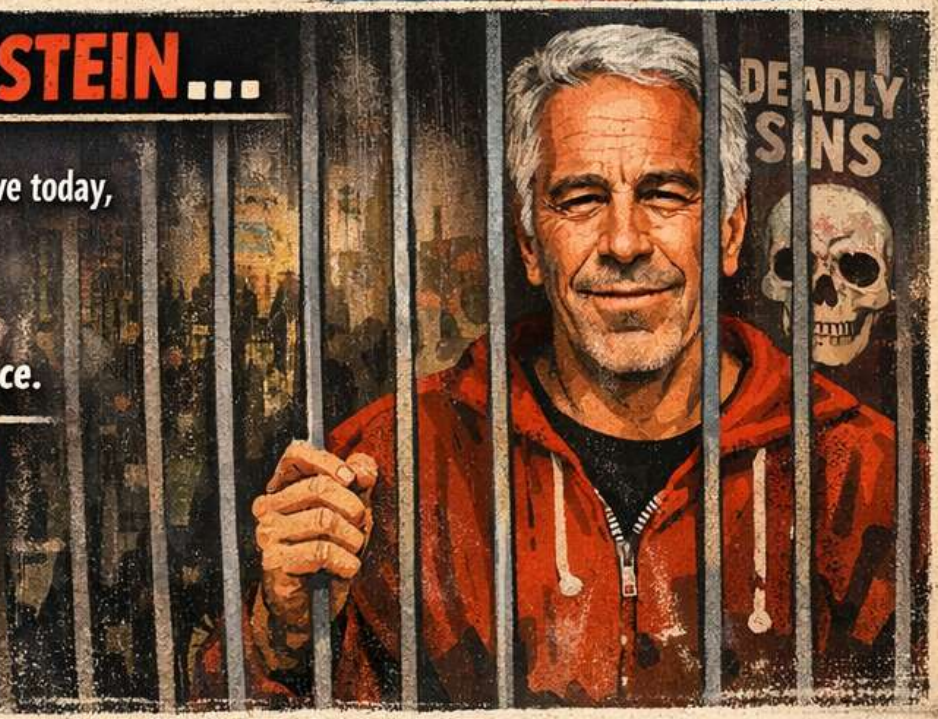
And let's not forget the constant guilt trips...
"Am I doing this right? Probably not, but who is?"

ON JUSTICE & EPSTEIN...

Even if Jeffrey Epstein were alive today, we couldn't punish him for all the crimes he committed.

At most, we can only kill him once.

WHAT DOES THIS SAY?



SOCIETY & MODERN VALUES

Justice, Sacrifice & Civic Identity

The Uneven Scales of Justice

It screams volumes about the limitations of our justice system, the rich and powerful can play by a different set of rules, that justice is a commodity and that some people are simply **above the law.**

It's a bare reminder that the scales are always tipped in favor of those who can afford to buy their way out.

Modern Sacrifices – Are They Still There?

4. Are you seeing guys sacrificing their lives for an idea or anything nowadays? I'm not seeing anyone.

It's a tough one. Sacrificing lives for a country or someone is less common now. Maybe it's because the world feels more complex or maybe it's because **we're skeptical.**

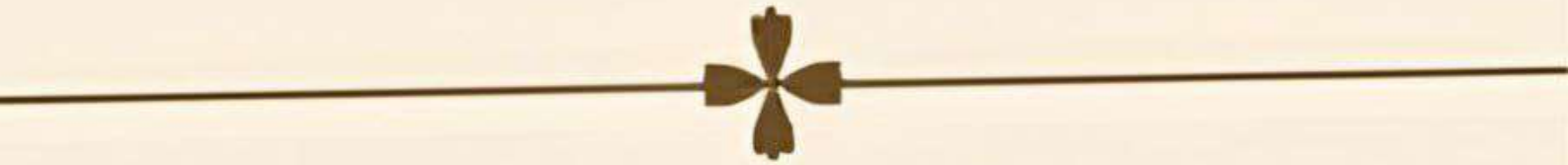
But there are still guys out there do little sacrifices like giving up his time, fort, logic (sometimes) to make their loved ones happy, **admitting defeat** in an argument, *pretending to enjoy the questionnables* **maybe**!

Civic Voice

5. Why should I apply for a voter ID? (*Answer in 2 marks*)

To feel like you are part of something, at least pretend to be the part of something.

Voting is the only time you get to feel like your opinion matter, *even if it's just for a fleeting moment.* Gohead and apply for it.



REENGINEERING THOUGHTS

Gold: A Monetary Classic — *An Overview*

Over the past three years, there has been significant noise across various sections of society that their exposure to gold should have been higher. As global markets continue cycling between correction phases and repeated all-time highs, many investors feel they may have underestimated gold's role in their portfolios.

To begin with a fact,

research has published that Indian households own more gold than the central banks of *ten countries combined*. In India, gold is not only cultural, but it also acts as a strong asset class for almost every Indian.

To be more detailed,

gold is largely imported into India. Because of this, it acts as a hedge against the dollar and can mainly be seen as a protector against *rupee depreciation*.

Whereas on the global stage,

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the kingpin of the NYSE, **Mr. Buffett**, has been highly critical of gold. His reasoning stems largely from the U.S. experience.

In dollar terms, gold *experienced nearly an* **82 percent** decline from its peak to its trough — falling from **$850** per ounce in 1980 to *nearly* **$255** *per ounce in* 1999.

Before the turn of the century, gold had not meaningfully reclaimed its earlier highs. It later reached around **$666** in 2007, *nearly 27 years after* the 1980 peak.

If adjusted for inflation, gold in dollar terms has delivered returns that are close to just 2 **percent** over that long period.

Again, much of this perspective depends on where one lives:

Gold in India has never corrected more than 30 *percent in price, a stark contrast to the deep drawdowns* witnessed in dollar terms.

To understand this difference, one must consider the structural realities of the Indian economy.

In the pre-globalisation era, even *second-hand cars were at times costlier than new ones.*

A new car ordered from a factory could take nearly ***three years*** to be delivered, reflecting the protectionist environment of that period. Scarcity shaped pricing, and assets *behaved differenty from what textbook economics might suggest.*

Even in modern comparisons, context matters

One cannot simply argue that Tata Motors is a better buy than Toyota solely because it is debtless while Toyota carries higher debt. Japan's interest rates have long remained below 1 percent, making Toyota's debt structurally inexpensive and largely irrelevant in that environment. India, by contrast, does not operate under such ultra-cheap credit conditions. This is why gold in India is a different story. Most of the pessimistic articles about gold carry a U.S.-centric lens. The conclusions drawn from dollar-based performance, long drawdowns, and comparisons with U.S. equities do not fully apply to the Indian context.

To give a brief and effective history of gold, one must begin in the post–World War II period. In 1944, a conference was held in the United States at **Bretton Woods Conference**, where global leaders assembled to determine the future of the world economic order.

The **United States**, having supplied weapons to the Allied powers largely on credit, emerged with significant economic leverage. During the discussions, John Maynard **Keynes**, representing the British Treasury, proposed the *idea of* a **supranational currency** and a more centralized global monetary framework. However, the American position ultimately prevailed.

The **outcome** was decisive: the **U.S. dollar** became the anchor of the global system. Gold was pegged at **$35 per ounce**, and other world currencies were effectively linked to the dollar. International trade would henceforth be conducted primarily in dollars.

This arrangement continued until the United States became deeply involved in the Vietnam War. Increased spending led to **significant money creation**, straining the ability of the U.S. to maintain gold convertibility. When France *demanded gold in exchange for its dollar reserves,* pressure mounted on the system.

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The modern era: Gold as a safe haven

In 1971, President **Richard Nixon** suspended the dollar's convertibility into gold. The dollar was released from the gold standard and became a **fiat currency** — meaning it was backed not by gold, but by government authority. From that point onward, governments gained the ability to expand money supply without direct gold constraints, with inflation becoming the natural corrective force over time, that was the phase when gold eventually reached its $850 peak. Later, Paul Volcker, as Chairman of the Federal Reserve, was brought in to arrest rising inflation and stabilize the dollar. He raised interest rates sharply — up to nearly **21 percent**. As a consequence, gold plunged to nearly $250 per ounce.

This episode effectively demonstrated one central **point: the interest rate decisions of the U.S. Federal Reserve** significantly influence gold prices. When interest rates spike, gold **tends to decline** in value, as holding non-yielding assets becomes less attractive compared to high-yielding dollar instruments.

It also explains the reverse dynamic. When people lose confidence in currency stability, gold tends to surge.

Following the **petrodollar** arrangements and the collapse of the **Soviet Union**, the U.S. **dollar e**merged as the undisputed global reserve currency. This period of dollar dominance explains the relatively flat or "dead-line" **movement in gold** prices between the 1990s and early 2000s.

However, during moments **of systemic stress and pessimism** — such as the 2007 global financial crisis, the 2020 coronavirus crisis, and subsequent global disruptions — gold prices witnessed sharp increases, reflecting *renewed demand for safety and stability.*

What makes gold's recent surge particularly remarkable is that the explanation cannot be attributed to a single **political figure.** It is not solely about **President Trump.** During the Biden administration, sanctions imposed in response to the **Russia–Ukraine** war included measures that restricted access to **Russia's** dollar reserves. *This marked a significant moment* in global finance, as it demonstrated that dollar *reserves could be frozen under geopolitical confict.*

What lies ahead for gold

Such developments had broader implications. Countries that accumulate large dollar reserves began reassessing reserve diversification strategies. China, which generates substantial dollar reserves annually through trade surpluses, accelerated its gold accumulation. This strategic shift toward gold reserves is widely seen as one of the major structural drivers behind the recent rise in gold prices.

In this sense, the current rally is **not merely speculative** — it reflects adjustments in global reserve management and a recalibration of trust within the international monetary system.

So what could be its future? It is almost certain that **Kevin Warsh** may be appointed as the next **Fed Chair** after Jerome Powell's exit. Trump's shifting stands on global conflicts, his sudden actions on **Venezuela**, and even statements about Greenland add fuel to gold prices by increasing uncertainty.

However, **Warsh** has stated that he would **reduce** the U.S. balance sheet, which simply means strengthening the dollar through tighter policy and possibly **higher interest rates** — a negative for **gold**. At the same time, he has also spoken about cutting *interest rates*.

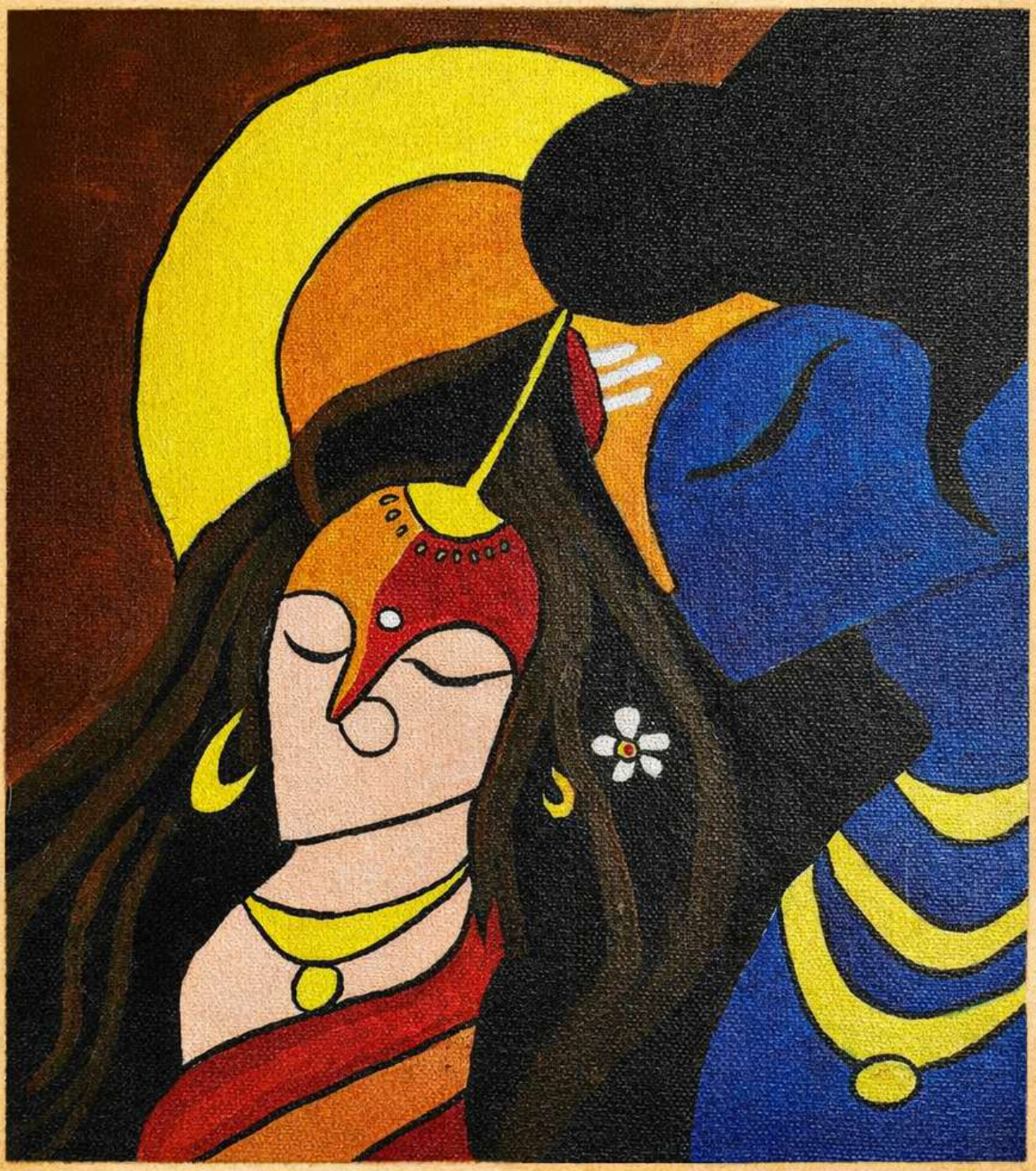
From this, one may infer that Warsh could align with Trump's rhythm until his position is secure, and later use his Federal Reserve authority to support the dollar. With that expectation. **gold** may find a new lower floor in dollar terms, though the effect may be less dramatic in rupee terms.

Hence, gold may have a favorable **front** run for **at least the next 12 months** — though not at the pace witnessed over the past three years. Thereafter, it is likely to move according to **Kevin Warsh's** policy direction, which could introduce downside **pressure.**

However, if the **rupee depreciates** alongside, domestic gold prices may continue to revolve within a similar range despite dollar weakness. Over the **long term,** – quality equities are likely to outperform gold, as productive assets tend to compound wealth more effectively than stores of value. But gold is always a portfolio stabilizer.

Equities create wealth; gold preserves it.

DA VINCI CODE



SIMP PHILOSOPHY

Love and Letting Go

Simp philosophy usually begins when a man feels attracted to a woman. It can happen the same way for women as well. The problem starts when the partner does not like him or does not have any feelings for him. Even then, the man continues to show'conditional love and keeps trying to impress her. The opposite gender is not interested, yet he still makes continuous efforts. This is the basic form of simp behavior.

Love addiction distorts human emotion. What appears as deep affection slowly turns into emotional dependence. A person becomes attached not to reality, but to an imagined version of love. They seek constant reassurance, attention, and validation. When affection is not mutual, the experience becomes painful and tragic. In this imbalance, the pure essence of love—which should be free and **reciprocal**—disappears. Love has the power to cause profound emotional and mental suffering, sometimes more intense than addiction itself. Among all human experiences, its impact can feel overwhelming and consuming. When love transforms into addiction, it weakens emotional independence and replaces strength with attachment. What should unite two whole individuals instead creates imbalance. Rather than building resilience, it fosters dependency, binding one person's identity to another.

One-sided love is one of the most painful human experiences. One heart feels deeply, while the other remains silent and unmoved. True love requires trve hearts, yet in this condition, only one truly exists in devotion. Sometimes the person does not even possess the slightest love to give in return, which makes it extremely difficult to move on.

The Tragedy of Love

When two conscious hearts unite, they share care, emotional support, and time. But in one-sided love, these expectations are never fulfiled. The imbalance creates quiet suffering. The lover continues to wait, to believe, and to imagine a future that may never become reality. Society may call this persistence "simp" behavior when affection begins to reflect a loss of self-worth. In the end, the tragedy of one-sided love lies not only in rejection, but in loving alone while the other stands emotionally absent.

Emotional dependency begins when affection turns into necessity rather than choice. In reality, relationships naturally contain conflicts, but simp behavior may not always be pure love. When emotional dependency takes control, a person refuses to give up. They continue chasing, investing effort, and sacrificing time and dignity for someone who may already be walking away. They believe persistence will transform *distance into closeness*. However, reality eventually reveals itself: not every effort creates romance, and not every attachment becomes love. What feels like devotion may simply be fear of losing someone. This is not pure love; it is the begging form of *love*—love that seeks survival instead of mutual connection. Sometimes this hardest truth is this: if something is not meant to happen, no amount of effort can force it into existence.

Letting Go with Dignity

Simp behavior often begins with a belief: "She is mine. She will always be with me. She will make me happy and give me emotional support." The mind builds a future around one person and treats her as the only possibllity in the world. But reality may reveal something different. She may have no feelings at all. While you carry millions of emotions in your heart, hers may remain empty toward you. Love that is unequal cannot truly become mutual. Two hearts are equal only when both choose eachoher freely.

If she has zero feelings, respecting her decision becomes an act of strength. True love is not possession, and it is not forcing someone to stay. It is the ability to say, "I truly loved you, but I respect your choice." Letting go is not weakness, it is emotional maturity. Instead of chasing again and again, you release her with dignity and say, "May she be well wherever she is."

Rejection is painful, but you will value that person's decision. You will respect that person's decision, even if it is very panful. It can feel like a tragedy and make you deeply sad. But if you truly love, love is sacrifice. If that person is comfortable being alone or in another relationship, you can respect that.

Conclusion: Love Yourself

Love arises from the **deepest part of the soul.** It is **pure** in its origin. Yet situations **shape its destiny. Time heals** what force cannot. **Begging** for **love** or trying to force it only creates deeper wounds. **Love that is demanded loses its dignity.**

I can say something important here: **love yourself.** Take **care** of yourself. **Self-love** expands when you **choose your own peace** over desperation. When you **protect** your worth, your love becomes **stronger, not weaker.**

MOVIE REVIEW

(500) Days of SUMMER (2009)

(500) Days of Summer (2009)

(500) *Days of Summer* is a refreshingly honest romantic dramedy that dismantles the fantasy of "meant-to-be" love. Rather than presenting a straightforward love story, the film boldly announces in its opening that this is not a love story—and it keeps that promise.

A Nonlinear Love Story

The narrative follows Tom Hansen, a hopeless romantic who believes in destiny and soulmates, and Summer Finn, who doesn't believe in love at all. Their 500-day relationship is told in a nonlinear structure, jumping back and forth between moments of joy, onfusion, intimacy, and heartbreak. This storytelling device mirrors the emotional chaos of memory — how we romanticize certain days while conveniently ignoring warning signs.

Psychological Realism

One of the film's greatest strengths is its psychological realism. Tom's tendency to project his ideals onto Summer reflects a common human flaw: falling in love with an idea rather than a person. Summer, meanv- while is not a villain but an independent character who is clearabout her emotional boundaries. The conflict arises not from betrayal; but from mismatched expectations.

Marc Webb's' direction adds stylistic flair — split screens contrasting expectation vs. reality, musical sequences, and carefully curated indle soundracks — all of which elevate the emotional Impact, without overwhetining the story. The tone-bulances humot and melencholy gracefulty, making the heartbreak feel intimate rather than dramatic.

Thematic Exploration

- The danger of romantic idealization
- The subjectivity of memory.
- Growth through heartbreak
- Letting go of narrative fantasies about love.

Final Verdict

(500) Days of Summer is a thoughtful, bittersweet exploration of modern relationships, it challenges conventional romantic tropes and replaces fairy-tale endings with emotional inaturity. While not everyore may relate to Tom's perspective, many will recognize fragments of their own past relationships in its 500-days.

★★★★★

emotionally tiralligens, ssyfstonally finventive, and painpaily relatooble

BOOK REVIEW

If We Ever Meet Again by Ana Huang

Romance & Heartbreak

Praise for the Novel

If *We Ever Meet Again* by Ana Huang is a contemporary romance novel that explores love, heartbreak, and emotional growth. The story follows Farrah Lin, an ambitious and creative student studying abroad in Shanghai, and Blake Ryan, a charming but emotionally guarded former athlete. What begins as a friendship slowly develops into a *romantic relationship* filled with passion, vulnerability, and conflict. However, external pressures and difficult choices threaten to tear them apart, making their love story both beautiful and painful.

"Sweet, romantic, sad, and very emotional"

Criticiem & Controversy

However, the novel has also received criticism. Some readers found the characters frustrating, especially Blake, whose actions cause emotional harm af tension in the relationship. Others felt the writing style was less polished compared to Ana Huang's later works, and certain plot choices—such as betrayal and unresolved conflicts—made the story difficult to enjoy.

Ratings: ★★★★★

A Bittersweet, Emotional Romance

Overall, *If We Ever Meet Again* is a heartfelt and emotional romance that highlights the complexity of young love and personal growth. While it may not appeal to everyone due to its dramatic and sometimes frustrating plot, it is still an engaging story for readers who enjoy emotional, character-driven romances. The book's bittersweet tone and realistic portrayal of relationships make it memorable, especially for those who appreciate stories about *love that doesn't always go planned.*